

The Board of County Commissioners Of Riley County, Kansas

The Regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners met at the Riley County Plaza East Building February 14, 2005 with the following members present: Bob Newsome, Chairman; Alvan Johnson, Vice Chairman; Mike Kearns, Member; and Rich Vargo, County Clerk.

8:30 Public Comment & Business Meeting

Leon Hobson, Director of Public Works/County Engineer; Tiffany Myers, Administrative Assistant; Paul Wyatt, KSU Student; and Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer, attended.

Hobson said the proposals for the LEC are due Friday. Hobson asked which commissioner would sit on the evaluation committee for the LEC proposals.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed Alvan Johnson would represent the Board on the LEC proposal evaluation committee.

Johnson discussed a complaint he received about county personnel disposing of Riley County equipment.

The Board of County Commissioners reviewed a list of Boards the commissioners serve on. The Board of County Commissioners will review and discuss the various boards the commissioners serve on in the near future.

The Board of County Commissioners signed a Riley County Position Action Form for an Administrative Clerk, in the Treasurer's Office, at a grade 7.

Johnson moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2005~~as~~ amended. Kearns seconded. Carried 3-0.

9:00 Rich Vargo, County Clerk

Paul Wyatt, KSU Student, attended.

Vargo presented year-to-date budget and expenditure reports.

9:15 Cheryl Collins, Museum Curator

Paul Wyatt, KSU Student, attended.

C. Collins reported the Manhattan Community Foundation received a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to offer three workshops to Manhattan not for profit organizations on “Stabilizing Community Agencies.”

C. Collins said Celebrate 150! activities in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of Riley County and Manhattan continues.

Johnson discussed with Howard Haile that an individual complained about county staff disposing of electronic equipment. Haile said the keyboard was broken and he would follow up on the complaint.

9:30 Press Conference

Greg McClure, County Extension Agent; Greg Eyestone, Program Assistant, Horticultural; Paul Wyatt, KSU Student; Cheryl Collins, Museum Curator; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Kathryn Mayes, Manhattan Mercury, attended.

C. Collins reported the C150! Lecture Series will continue Monday, February 21, 2005 with Sonie Liebler, from Oklahoma City, speaking on “Steamboating on the Kaw – Frontier Adventure” at the Manhattan Public Library at 7:00 p.m. The program is free and the public is invited. This lecture series is sponsored by the Riley County Historical Society and Museum and the Manhattan Public Library in commemoration of Manhattan and Riley County’s Sesquicentennial.

Eyestone reported the Manhattan Area Garden Show will be held at Pottorf Hall, CiCo Park on the following dates.

Friday, February 25, 2005	5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 26, 2005	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 27, 2005	Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Eyestone said the Master Gardeners have worked on the Garden Show activities and are working on the June 11, 2005 Garden Tour.

McClure said an Irrigation Management School will be held on Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at the Farm Bureau Building Meeting Room in Wamego. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn by 3:00 p.m.

McClure said topics to be discussed include: sub-surface drip irrigation, center pivot systems, irrigation scheduling, soil fertility, and plant populations. Dan Rogers and Stu Duncan, K-State Research & Extension specialists, will be the featured speakers.

McClure said a noon meal will be served, courtesy of Farmers Union Valley Irrigation. There is no cost to attend.

McClure said the program is being organized by K-State Research & Extension in Riley and Pottawatomie counties. Reservations may be made by calling either the Riley or the Pottawatomie County Extension Office by February 22, 2005.

McClure said a Coffee Shop Agronomy meeting on No-Till will be held Thursday, February 17, 2005 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Randolph Café.

McClure said the last Coffee Shop Meeting will be held March 3, 2005

McClure said a horse workshop will be held at RB Outpost March 5, 2005 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Vargo reported today February 14, 2005 is the last day to register to vote for the March 1, 2005 Primary Election. Vargo reported 309 ballots have been mailed out and 18 voters have participated through walk in advance voting.

10:10 Leon Hobson, Director of Public Works/County Engineer

Rod Meredith, Assistant Director of Public Works/Parks Director; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Paul Wyatt, KSU Student; Bret Glendening, Budget and Finance Officer; Kathryn Mayes, Manhattan Mercury; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Wayne Henson, attended.

Hobson discussed the Konza II Sewer District Project.

Kearns moved to approve the project to construct a lift station and forced sewer main across the Kansas River and hook onto the City of Manhattan sewer for an estimated cost of \$202,800.00, and authorize staff to transfer these funds from the General Services budget in the General Fund to the Economic Development Fund. Johnson seconded. Carried 3 0.

Hobson discussed the Road and Bridge Advisory Board's role and at what capacity it should continue.

Newsome said the Road and Bridge Advisory Board's role needs to be clearly defined.

Meredith said the Road and Bridge Advisory Board is assisting in the revised scoring system for evaluating roads and bridges.

Meredith said the Road and Bridge Advisory Board will be useful in evaluating the needs in 2012 when the current ½ cent sales tax expires.

Kearns suggested the Road and Bridge Advisory Board be kept in existence as they will be needed in the future for possible advisement concerning ½ cent sales tax continuation.

Newsome suggested the Road and Bridge Advisory Board meet with the townships.

Johnson stated the commission should meet with the Road and Bridge Advisory Board prior to any consideration of discontinuing the advisory board.

Newsome said staff needs to determine how Riley County uses the Road and Bridge Advisory Board in the future.

10:45 Monty Wedel, Director of Planning and Development

Paul Wyatt, KSU Student; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; and Steve Higgins, Zoning Enforcement Officer, attended.

Wedel discussed the second Vanderstelt zoning violation. Wedel said the zoning violation includes a mobile home possibly being used as a residence in an area zoned industrial and a building being used as a church.

Wedel said he would prefer to setup a procedure in handling complaints on zoning violations.

Johnson stated Vanderstelt has not complained about staff but about the Riley County Commission not clearing up the Marlatt Avenue location. The commission's inability to resolve this matter has complicated Vanderstelt's desire to subdivide/plat and sell his property for many years.

Wedel's concern is the commission intervening at an inappropriate time.

Newsome said the Board of County Commissioners over stepped their boundaries by not including the Planning and Development Department in the process.

Johnson agreed that Monty Wedel should have been involved in the original discussion.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed staff should work with Vanderstelt on resolving the platting and the road location.

Wedel said the first violation was related to the platting of the low income housing and Vanderstelt's house.

Kearns moved to withhold action for the plat of Vanderstelt's and his neighbor's house until the right-of-way of what is referred to as East Marlatt Avenue is determined. Newsome seconded. Carried 3-0.

Wedel said the church needs rezoned to residential.

Johnson stated that what is being referred to as a church is actually a house that people live in and invite others in for religious activities.

Wedel stated that it may be a matter of removing that sign.

The Board of County Commissioners agreed Monty Wedel and Mel Vanderstelt should meet to resolve the church zoning.

Wedel said the mobile home is a current zoning violation in industrial use zoning.

Kearns moved that the mobile home being used as a residence and the church zoning violations be addressed by Monty Wedel and Mel Vanderstelt at a meeting to attempt to resolve the zoning violations and bring back the information to the Board of County Commissioners. Johnson seconded. Carried 3-0.

**11:15 Randall Allen, KAC and Gene Merry, Coffey County
Commissioner**

Monty Wedel, Director of Planning and Development; Rod Meredith, Assistant Director of Public Works/Parks Director; Cheryl Collins, Museum Curator; Bret Glendening, Budget and Finance Officer; Paul Wyatt, KSU Student; Sam Schmidt, Appraiser; Charlotte Shawver, Register of Deeds; Leon Hobson,

Director of Public Works/County Engineer; Gary Rosewicz, Assistant County Engineer; Lyndal Nyberg, League of Women Voters; Kathryn Mayes, Manhattan Mercury; Eileen King, County Treasurer; Bill Felber, Manhattan Mercury; and Mel Vanderstelt, attended.

Newsome said Riley County has not taken an issue on the changes in KAC. Newsome said the commissioners received invoices from the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) and Kansas County Commissioners Association (KCCA) which show increases in Riley County's membership dues.

Allen discussed issues KAC is working on in the legislature.

Allen said they view KAC's job to speak on behalf of Kansas counties.

Newsome asked why we can't all work together or work towards getting back together.

Allen said the Lincoln County Kansas Sheriff's case on commissioners' authority over an elected sheriff's personnel got us to this point.

Allen said he cannot say if there will be a reunification of the groups.

Johnson said he understands the change in the legislative committee takes away input from the other elected and appointed officials. Johnson said it is not proper to shut out the elected and appointed departments input.

Allen said the KAC Bylaws change was overwhelmingly passed by the majority.

Kearns said his impression of the KAC Bylaws change modified how legislative issues get addressed during the legislative session. Kearns said the current format allows commissioners to drive legislative changes during the session.

Allen said the commissioners from the six districts in Kansas are on the KAC legislative committee.

Kearns said the morning of the KAC meeting one of the founders of KAC spoke to the fact that KAC was founded to represent counties and not Kansas County Commissioners.

Kearns said a group needs to speak for the counties.

Kearns said the original KAC dues notice for this year included a 10% increase in dues and therefore the possibility of a further increase therefore this year. This concerned him.

Allen said the increase is due to the KAC educational programs. Allen said there will not be a supplemental dues increase in 2005.

Newsome asked what the KAC Board is doing to overcome the fear of the other departments.

Allen said they are including input from the other departments and still taking their calls.

Newsome asked if the Clerk Association brought an issue during the legislative session if the KAC Bylaw Committee could turn down the issue.

Allen stated that is always a possibility.

Kearns asked if the Legislative Committee could meet after the KAC Conference and propose and pass their own legislation, but in the name of the KAC?

Allen said they could on any issue not addressed in KAC's Legislative Priorities.

Merry said Georgia has two separate associations that work well together. Merry said they will continue to meet with the affiliates and gather input from all counties.

Meredith asked what KAC's intent was on the educational programs?

Allen said KAC will continue the Road Scholars program but will cut cost in other areas of the educational program.

Johnson said he heard that part of what initiated the change was a bill brought forth by the commissioners that was not approved by the committee.

Wedel asked if this couldn't have been avoided. Wedel said he came back from a joint meeting on the Bylaws change that with better representation from affiliates this could have been avoided.

12:05 County Officials Luncheon

1:00 Johnson moved to adjourn. Kearns seconded. Carried 3-0.